

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

x-Econ. 2 Russian

Sen. Sparkman Says:

Soviet Economic Collapse Unlikely

By Eileen Summers

SEN. JOHN J. Sparkman (D-Ala.), recently returned from a 16-day visit to Russia, said yesterday he believes any hope of an economic collapse by that country is "wishful thinking" and that revolution is unlikely.

However, he thought a change in Russia's policies possible by "evolution."

His reasons for such a belief, he said, were that "the germ of religious faith has been kept alive in the Russian people despite all the obstructions of the government."

And the insistence by Russian farmers working collective farms on their right to farm for themselves and sell the produce from one acre

of land indicated to him that "the spark of capitalism is still alive and may one day be blown back into flame."

SEN. SPARKMAN, who made his comments during a talk before the New Era Club, said he thought every opportunity should be taken by this country to "pierce the Iron Curtain and get through ideas, information and persons." We should welcome, he said, a show of friendship from Russia "so long as we let them know we are not going to lessen our strength. This is no time to lower our guard."

Sen. Sparkman visited a collective farm and a farmers' free market where produce from the private plots of land was sold. He watched trucks coming off the as-

sembly line at the Stalin Auto Works in Moscow at the rate of one every 10 minutes. He visited a Baptist church crowded to capacity.

"One of the surprises of the trip was the freedom we and the American newspapermen with us were given for taking pictures. And as far as I know we were never followed anywhere, even though we roamed around the city quite a lot on our own," said the Senator.

THE PEOPLE on the streets seemed well fed and to have "plenty of pep," he said. "And the people we talked to seemed good natured, friendly and contented."

In other Iron Curtains visited by Sen. Sparkman, he found that "they haven't been able to make headway with collectivization." In Poland, the Senator was told by members of the Polish Parliament that 80 per cent of the land was privately owned and operated.

Mrs. Hollis Imes, president of the New Era club, conducted the meeting. Guests included Mrs. Heinz Kreker, wife of the German Ambassador; Helen Hill Miller, president of the Women's National Press Club, and Eleanor Lansing Dulles, special assistant to the Director of German Affairs, Department of State.